

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC COMMENT**

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) seeks written and oral comments from interested persons on the development of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plan for Tye River watershed in Nelson and Amherst Counties. The Tye River and its tributaries, Piney River, Hat Creek and Rucker Run were first listed as impaired on the Virginia's 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report due to violations of the State's water quality standard for bacteria in 2004 (Hat Creek and Rucker Run), 2006 (Tye River), and 2008 (Piney Creek). The creeks have remained on the 303(d) list for these impairments since then. The impaired segment of the Tye River extends from its confluence with the Piney River to its confluence with the James River (15.94 miles), while Hat Creek and Rucker Run are designated as impaired from their headwaters to their confluence with the Tye River, 9.58 miles and 18.26 miles respectively. The impaired segment of the Piney River extends 13.3 miles upstream from its confluence with the Tye River.

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and §62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia require DEQ to develop TMDLs for pollutants responsible for each impaired water contained in Virginia's 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report. In addition, Section 62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia requires the development of an implementation plan (IP) for approved TMDLs. The IP should provide measurable goals and the date of expected achievement of water quality objectives. The IP should also include the corrective actions needed and their associated costs, benefits, and environmental impacts. Bacteria TMDLs were completed by DEQ for Tye River and its tributaries in June 2013, and were approved by the Environmental Protection Agency in September 2013. The TMDL report is available for review on the DEQ website at:

www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/WaterQualityInformationTMDLs/TMDL/TMDLDevelopment/DraftTMDLReports.aspx

Development of the TMDL implementation plan began in November 2013.

The second and final public meeting on the development of this TMDL implementation plan will be held on ***May 15, 2014, from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m at the Massie's Mill Ruritan Hall (5439 Patrick Henry Highway, Roseland VA)***. The meeting will include an ice cream social, sponsored by the Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. The implementation plan will be available on the DEQ website the day after the meeting for public comment:

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/WaterQualityInformationTMDLs/TMDL/TMDLDevelopment/DraftTMDLReports.aspx>

The public comment period for the Implementation Plan will end on June 16, 2013. Written comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the comments and should be sent to Nesha McRae, Department of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 3000, Harrisonburg, VA, 22801, telephone (540) 574-

7850 or e-mailed to nesha.mcrae@deq.virginia.gov.